IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/441,201, filed November 16, 1999, Art Unit 1725, Examiner Samuel M. Heinrich

Applicant : Donald V. Smart
Filed : January 7, 2001
Title : LASER PROCESSING

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1 between lines 3 and 4 insert the following:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/441,201, filed November 16, 1999, now USPN 6,337,462, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 08/774,107, filed December 24, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,998,759.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As has been mentioned above, in the embodiment of Fig. 5, a conventional laser 10 with a very short pulse width, designed to maintain this pulse width over a substantial range of laser repetition rates, is introduced into a system that includes a wavelength shifter 12. The conventional laser 10 at 1.064 microns or 1.047 microns typically has a very high gain and can be easily designed to develop the requisite short pulse. A laser configured to intrinsically have the longer wavelength, such as the 1.32-micron wavelength of YAG or YLF, would have intrinsically low gain and hence will have a pulse width much longer than desired. The Nd:VO_4 (vanadate) laser 10 has very high gain and constant pulse width at high repetition rates operating at 1.064 microns. The wavelength shifter 12 (such as a stimulated Raman scattering laser) can